

# Abstract

## **The cooperative as a business entity**

The goal of this thesis is to look at the cooperatives from a different point of view as a business entity. The difference is explained on a fact that normally the cooperative is connected with ensuring of economic, social and other needs of its members.

Chapter One deals with the basic features of a cooperative. With regard to the limited range of this thesis it considers only chosen features influencing the functioning of the cooperative as a business entity. Firstly a cooperative, entrepreneurship as a core of the market economy and the correlation between them is described. Then the thesis compares a cooperative with companies based on selected features.

Chapter Two concentrates on types of cooperatives, on their constitution and utilization for business. This chapter focuses on housing cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, production cooperatives and credit unions. Last but not least the thesis comments the importance of alliances increasing competitiveness and advantages for the cooperative members.

Chapter Three provides an outline of the European Cooperative Society. It is a necessary part with regard to the membership of Czech Republic in the European Union. The most important and most interesting parts related to the business utilization of the European Cooperative Society are selected, although this legal entity is not often used.

The recodification of the private changes the regulation of cooperatives. The new legislation is more extensive and is aimed for the basic main purpose – self-support of the members. The support is newly provided to a third party.

Chapter Five illustrates an Austrian cooperative, condition of its functioning and differences from the Czech regulation.

Last chapter concerns a cooperative as an entity for business valuation. The thesis focuses on relation between a cooperative and its profit. The SWOT analysis is applied in order to discover positive and negative signs of this legal entity.

**Keywords:** cooperative, entrepreneurship, profit, self-support